

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING AND AGREEMENT
AMONG
THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY AND
THE GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION**

IN THE SPIRIT OF COOPERATION, TO SUPPORT PRESIDENT CLINTON'S CLIMATE CHANGE TECHNOLOGY INITIATIVE, TO HELP PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT, TO WORK TOGETHER TOWARDS THE NATION'S ENVIRONMENTAL GOALS AND TO IMPROVE WORK CONDITIONS IN THE FEDERAL COMMUNITY AN UNDERSTANDING AND AGREEMENT IS HEREBY ESTABLISHED AMONG THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY (DOE), THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (EPA) AND THE GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION (GSA) TO COOPERATE ON PLANET GSA. PLANET GSA INCLUDES FOUR PILLARS: BUY GREEN, BUILD GREEN, DRIVE GREEN AND SAVE GREEN.

Buy Green refers to using the purchasing power of the Federal Government to obtain products and services which have a reduced impact on the environment through waste minimization, natural resources conservation and pollution reduction and prevention. Buying green embodies a life-cycle approach from materials extraction to final disposal or recycling and the employment of source reduction and pollution prevention methods, wherever feasible. Buying green involves purchasing products that have recycled content, are energy and/or water efficient, are bio-based, and have other attributes that make these products environmentally preferable. Buying green also encompasses the re-use or recycling of these products. With support from DOE and EPA, GSA will encourage the purchase and use of Energy Star products and other applicable products that rank in the upper 25 percent in terms of energy efficiency. GSA will continue to promote all the environmental products and services in its supply system by highlighting them in their printed publications, identifying them in their electronic on-line shopping service GSA Advantage!™ and through notices to Purchase Card holders under the GSA Smart Pay Program.

Build Green employs sustainable design principles to all phases of Federal facilities -- initial design, construction, remodeling, renovation and construction waste management. Such design principles include all elements of building and landscape design; maintenance and operation activities using water and toxic substances such as pesticides; and those activities that impact indoor environmental quality and the recycling infrastructure. Build Green promotes the building and renovating of Federal facilities using sustainable and low-energy design principles. GSA, in collaboration with DOE and EPA, will promote the use of energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies.

Drive Green promotes both alternative commuting strategies such as teleWORKing, carpooling, bike-to-work, and/or use of mass transit, along with effective and comprehensive acquisition, management and operation of vehicles in the Federal fleet – whether owned or leased. As appropriate, fleet programs incorporate measures aimed at achieving Alternative Fueled Vehicle acquisition goals; maximizing fuel economy performance; and maximizing the procurement of recycled, bio-based and other products with attributes that make them environmentally preferable for all vehicles in the Federal fleet.

Save Green promotes the use of energy-efficient and water-conserving measures at Federal facilities and encourages the use of renewable energy and energy efficient technologies. *Save Green* also promotes innovative tools such as the Energy Star label for buildings and alternative financing through Utility Agreements and Energy Savings Performance Contracts. GSA, with “life-cycle” analytic support from DOE and EPA, will use these measures to complete all cost-effective energy-saving projects, where appropriate. As part of this effort, GSA, DOE and EPA will encourage the purchase of green power in a competitive electricity environment. To support all of these efforts and ensure implementation, where feasible, GSA will incorporate these principles into policy, budget, design and operational decisions. With support from DOE and EPA, within the terms of the delegation agreements, GSA will work with its customer agencies to accelerate energy efficiency and renewable energy within delegated buildings.

THE PARTIES RECOGNIZE that a partnership concerning Planet GSA will strengthen the working alliance among the three agencies, help citizens appreciate how government agencies are collaborating to support the environment, and further acknowledge the already good working relationship among these agencies. The parties further recognize that increased emphasis on Buying, Building, Driving and Saving Green can improve employee productivity, help reduce emissions of greenhouse gases and air pollutants, save taxpayers money, and improve our nation’s economic competitiveness. Through the interagency agreement, DOE, EPA and GSA will promote Planet GSA, distribute Planet GSA and energy information, and raise awareness and educate the general population about Planet GSA as well as broader energy management and environmental issues.

SIGNATURES:

Dan Reicher
Assistant Secretary for Energy Efficiency and
Renewable Energy
Department of Energy

Date

Romulo L. Diaz, Jr.
Assistant Administrator
Office of Administration and Resources Management
Environmental Protection Agency

Date

David J. Barram
Administrator
General Services Administration

Date